

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A heating element array is cleaned in case foreign matters are adhered or deposited to a thermal head, such as after printing. A color thermal recording paper is fed in a state that
5 the thermal head is heated not so as to develop a cyan thermosensitive coloring layer. After that, a cleaning portion and the heating element array are in slidable contact with each other, so that the heating element array is cleaned. The cleaning portion used for the cleaning treatment is cut away
10 and discharged through a delivery opening.